

Question: 35

Topic: Legal costs

Written: 31 October 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency.
2. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external.
3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spent briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial).
4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice.

Answer

The department has spent \$6,167 on legal costs since 4 June 2014.

The department has engaged legal counsel as follows.

Source	Hours retained	Level of Counsel	Internal or external	Procurement method
Australian Government Solicitor*	49.06	National practice leader / Senior lawyer / Graduate lawyer	External	Prequalified tender
Minter Ellison	1.30	Senior associate	External	Prequalified tender

* The cost of this arrangement was shared between the parliamentary departments.